

1 March 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment

FROM : Coordinator for Academic Relations, NFAC

SUBJECT : On Whether We Should Have Another Visit by  
University Presidents

1. I sent the DCI a copy of my memo on "Suggestions Made by the Visiting University Presidents, 15 February 1979," which was addressed to you. To it I attached a note saying that we needed guidance on whether planning should be begun for another such visit. I said we might be able to arrange a small visit in May or a larger visit in October but in either case we should get started soon.

2. The reply I have received from the Director is:

"I'm inclined to drop - - ?"

I interpret the question mark to mean that he has not made up his mind and would appreciate advice that only you and the other deputy directors can provide him.

3. I said at the staff meeting this morning that I'd query DDO and DDS&T and yourself and pass the results to the DCI. On reflection, though, this hardly seems to be a proper subject for memo writing. May I suggest, instead, that you raise the question at the DCI's morning meeting, when all those interested (including John Waller and Herb Hetu) will be present for a discussion.

4. Here are a few points you might want to present.

Pro:

- a. So far as we have been able to determine the visits have been uniformly appreciated by our visitors. They have all left us better informed than when they arrived and several have seemed better disposed.

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- b. We have a list of 20, including the Presidents of the University of California, Duke, Rochester, Tufts, Nebraska, Princeton, Yale, CalTech, and Chicago who have expressed (or had expressed for them) more or less interest in being invited to visit us on a future occasion. Because of programming problems, we naturally cannot be sure of getting many of these for any one date. To be reasonably sure of a dozen acceptances we would have to add as many as 30 additional names to our list of presidents to be approached.
- c. Our past visitors comprise a list we may fairly consider "friends of the CIA". We keep in touch with them. In one instance I asked one of them for help -- testimony before a committee of Congress -- which he was eager to provide until he learned that the time was too short for proper preparation. There are probably other subjects on which we might properly go to them for assistance. But, of course, this is not the major reason why we invite them here. What we desire mainly is their understanding and general good will. Of those we are, I am convinced, assured.

Con:

- d. Aside from the time that is consumed in briefing our visitors, there is some disadvantage from the fact that they are administrators rather than scholars. On the one hand, we have had comparatively little difficulty with academic administrators (Harvard and Amherst being the exceptions). On the other hand, it could serve some of our purposes better to invite to the Agency university provosts, deans of the faculty, or department chairmen who are closer to the interests and values of the faculty members and their students.
- e. It is always possible that activist critics of the Agency will find ways to embarrass our visitors on their own campuses. OGC says we probably cannot protect their identifies against a determined demand. We do not

MEMORANDUM FOR: Admiral Cener

Executive Registry

179-6447

The attached on the university presidents' visit may be of interest, esp. paras 4 and 6.

We need your guidance soon on whether to plan another such visit. You may remember that for this latest visit we tried for 12 visitors. We first invited 15 who had been approached earlier, declined, but expressed interest in being invited again. Of these, 9 accepted. We then invited ten new candidates. 1 accepted. So we had ten acceptances of whom 3 subsequently dropped out, leaving the 7 who came.

If we start work on it soon we might get a small group for a May visit or a larger group for October.

26 FEB 1979

*I'm inclined to delay - ?*

STATINTL

Date 22 Feb. 79

FORM 101 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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publicize the visits but we also do not promise that they will be private. We warned our visitors that their names might be revealed. In a number of cases the presidents have told us that they have informed their associates of the visit beforehand. So far only one that we know of has declined because of the possibility that his visit might become known (the President of Brigham Young University, who was thinking of the youthful missionaries the Mormons send abroad).

STATINTL

